

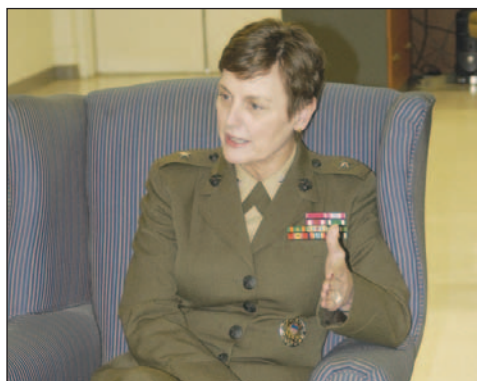
ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C. www.newriver.usmc.mil

April 7, 2004

Vol. 43 No. 7

New River sees stars.....Pg. 3



New CO leads "Gunrunners".....Pg. 3



Fighting your way through PT.....Pg. 8



See page 2 for more information

Sgt. Juan Vara

FLIGHTLINES

Promotion Videos

The Personnel Management Division, Manpower & Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, recently produced three new informational videos that explain important aspects of the promotion process for all Marines.

Two of the videos, "The Officer Promotion Process," and "The SNCO Promotion Process," show officers and enlisted Marines how to prepare for a promotion selection board and explain the promotion selection board process.

The third video, "The Performance Evaluation System," gives a detailed review of how information is displayed on a master brief sheet and an explanation of how this information is used by selection boards.

Read MARADMIN 149/04, dated March 25, for more information about how to obtain these videos.

Motorcycle Safety Course

New River is now sponsoring the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider's Course.

The Safety Office has certified instructors who will teach the course in accordance with Marine Corps Order 5100.19E.

Effective immediately, motorcycle vouchers are no longer being issued for Coastal Carolina Community College.

Anyone scheduled for the course at CCCC who would like to surrender their voucher to take the course at New River is welcome to do so.

Failure to show up for the scheduled class will result in forfeiture of the subject class, and the student will not be

permitted to return, but will be required to pay out of his own pocket for the course at CCCC.

For more information, call 449-5440 or 449-6143.

TRICARE Changes

The TRICARE Service Center located at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital has relocated to the corner of U.S. Highway 24 and Piney Green Road near K-Mart.

Patients can access the same TRICARE services they received at the hospital location.

To make appointments and obtain benefit or enrollment information, call (800) 931-9501.

Patients can also make appointments on the internet at <http://www.humana-military.com>, or they can visit the TRICARE Service Center Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Alcohol Awareness

In support of Alcohol Awareness Week, the Single Marine Program will be hosting various events April 7 - 8.

On April 7 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Dining Facility come out and maneuver through the SMP Beer Goggle Maze and take a field sobriety test while wearing special goggles that simulate the effects of alcohol at certain levels.

The first 50 participants receive a free t-shirt.

On Thursday at the Family Services Center from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. personal screening tests will be available purely for your own information. No questions will be asked and no consequences will be dealt.

This event is not com-

mand affiliated.

For more information call Brad West, drug demand reduction specialist, at 449-6383.

Dining Facility Easter Change

There will be no midnight rations served from April 8 - 12. Midrats will resume the evening of April 13.

All bag lunches must be picked up by 5 p.m. during this holiday time period.

If there are any cancellations after requesting the bag lunches, please notify Master Sgt. Tyrone Hill or John Negron at 449-6716 as soon as possible.

Until further notice, hot trays will be given out to emergency or sick-in-quarters situations only.

Video E-mail for Spouses

Free video e-mail is now available for the spouses of deployed servicemembers.

Visit the kiosk located at the Hadnot Point Exchange on Camp Lejeune and send a video to your loved one anywhere in the world.

It's fast, confidential and best of all, free.

For more information, call 451-5070.

Health Care Meeting

The next military retiree health care town hall meeting is April 15 at 2 p.m. in classrooms A and B at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital.

During this meeting, military retirees can meet Naval Hospital commanding officer Capt. Richard C. Welton to ask questions about issues important to them and their families.

For more information, contact the Hospital Public Affairs Office at 450-4463.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics Onslow County will host Spring Track and Field Events at Northside High School on April 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

The opening ceremony will be held April 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Northside High School.

Skip Waters from WCTI 12 will be the guest speaker.

Entertainment will be provided by Spot Light Entertainment.

Local law enforcement officers will run with the torch to declare the games open.

Both events are free and open to the public. Come out and support the athletes.

Concession stand will be available.

For more info, please call 346-8366.

ATM Scam

A team of organized criminals is installing equipment on bank ATMs to steal both the ATM card number and the personal information number.

If you see a suspicious attachment, do not use the ATM. Report it immediately to the bank using the phone number or phone on the front of the ATM.

On the cover

Marines from the Station's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting put out a controlled propane fire on a Mobile Aircraft Fire Training Device on Alpha taxiway behind the Station Operations building April 3.



Commanding Officer
Col. Stephen L. Forand

Executive Officer
Lt. Col. Karl S. Elebash

Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. Lewis Summerville

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Rob James

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
1st Lt. Katherine L. O'Neill

Public Affairs Chief
Master Sgt. Brenda S. Donnell

Press Chief
Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Editor
Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

Joint Public Affairs Office Staff

Sgt. Juan Vara
Sgt. Wayne Campbell
Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt
Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
Pfc. Michael Angelo

Combat Visual Information Center

Gunnery Sgt. Richard Small
Lance Cpl. John D. Cranford
Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Disclaimer

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of The RotoVue are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the DoD, or the Joint Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Air Station New River.

The RotoVue is published by Landmark Military Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the DoD, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, or the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with MCAS New River.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD or military services, or Landmark Military Newspapers, of products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Joint Public Affairs Office. For information regarding content, contact Joint Public Affairs Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station New River, PSC Box 21002, Jacksonville, NC 28545-1002.

If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

Women's History Month gets star treatment from Krusa-Dossin

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Director of Marine Corps Public Affairs Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Krusa-Dossin was the guest speaker for Women's History Month on March 31 at the Station Theater.

She is the first Provost Marshal officer in her field to receive a general-grade commission. Krusa-Dossin shared her experiences in the Marine Corps and stories of the women who have influenced her life.

"My mother always told me to reach for the stars," said Krusa-Dossin during her speech. "Little did she know I was going to end up with one."

The Gary, Ind., native touched on several topics in her speech to the servicemembers, but emphasized that "freedom" was the theme. Freedom consisted of four key messages: never give up personal power to the will of others, know your limitations, don't be afraid to have a dream, and when you succeed and reach the top, please remember to send that elevator back down.

"I didn't get here by myself; there were many others who helped me get where I am today," she said.

When Krusa-Dossin joined the Marine Corps in August 1975, there weren't too many opportunities for women. At that time, she didn't have to qualify with a weapon and wasn't allowed to carry or train with a sword. Women weren't even authorized to wear slacks.

"Back then, women weren't seen as equal to men," said Lance Cpl. Alondra Silva Alvarez, assistant section head of service record maintenance at the

Installation Personnel Administration Center aboard New River.

According to Krusa-Dossin, during her more than 28 years of service, she has witnessed numerous changes in the equality of women in the military. The women pioneers she believed made those changes possible, to name a few, were Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker and the Women's Air Force Service Pilots.

She recalled that one pivotal moment for women in the military was when they were granted continuous active service, which is currently known as active duty.

Another, she said, was when women were no longer administratively separated from the Marine Corps upon getting married or establishing a family.

"A drawback for women before was not having an equal status with their male counterparts," she added.

Presently, women make up six percent of today's Marine Corps, and Krusa-Dossin only hopes the numbers will climb in the future.

"I don't think of myself as a pioneer," said Krusa-Dossin. "However, there are things I have done in my career that have helped pave the way for women."

Silva Alvarez from Dallas, was one of many who enjoyed Krusa-Dossin's remarks.

"She definitely caught my attention. I especially like the quote she said to 'reach for the stars.' You've got to know your limitations and have the willingness to succeed," concluded Silva Alvarez.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Brig. Gen. Mary Ann Krusa-Dossin speaks to the crowd during the Women's History Month Celebration on March 31 at the Station Theater. Krusa-Dossin is the Director of Marine Corps Public Affairs.

Two Jeffrey's, but one in charge of HML/A-269

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Lt. Col. Jeffrey M. Hewlett relinquished command of Marine Light Attack/ Helicopter Squadron-269 to Lt. Col. Joseph M. Jeffrey III in a ceremony held April 2 on the squadron's flightline.

Dozens turned out to watch Jeffrey, who was the Marine Aircraft Group-29 operations officer since July 2003, take command from Hewlett, who was the commanding officer since Nov. 23, 2002. Hewlett's stint as CO was highlighted by leading the "Gunrunners" to nearly 3,000 mishap-free flight hours during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hewlett and Jeffrey have an extensive history together.

"We have known each other and worked together on and off for the last 15 years including lieutenants at HML/A-167 and majors at 269," said Jeffrey. "I am excited beyond words to take command from my best friend."

Hewlett leaves New River to take a position at U.S. Missions, United Nations in New York.

"This has been the greatest 17 months of my life," said Hewlett. "HML/A-269 is all about the people, all about the Marines."

"My pilots are the bravest people I have ever served with. To the Marines

of HML/A-269, I'm as proud as I can be of you."

Jeffrey concluded with his respects to Hewlett and his anxiousness to pick up and continue the leadership role of commanding officer.

"Every command has a 'Michael Jordan.' Hewlett is that here," said Jeffrey. "I want to be like Mike."

Although an experienced leader was leaving, Jeffrey assured the Marines that under his command, they will be just as mission ready as always.

"We're not ever sure where the wars in the world will take us next, but we will be ready to fly, fight and win," he concluded.



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

Lt. Col. Jeffrey M. Hewlett (right) passes the colors to Lt. Col. Joseph M. Jeffrey during the "Gunrunners" change of command ceremony April 2.

'Ironhorses' swap sergeants major

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

In a post and relief ceremony held outside their hangar March 24, the "Ironhorses" of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 said farewell to their squadron sergeant major as they welcomed another.

Sgt. Maj. Larry C. Jones, a native of Washington, D.C., relieved Sgt. Maj. George H. Gant of Walterburg, S.C., as the HMH-461 sergeant major. Coincidentally, Gant took over Jones' position as sergeant major at Marine Aircraft Group-42, Detachment B, Norfolk, Va., in a post and relief ceremony scheduled March 30. The detachment is a Reserve Helicopter Squadron for CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters.

"I have waited 19 years to have a sergeant major of his [Gant] caliber at my side in command," said Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Miccolis, who hails from Waldwick, N.J. "I will miss him, but I look forward to serving with [Sergeant Major Jones] in the coming months."

Miccolis recalled a memorable moment about Gant in his speech during the ceremony when he and Gant served together in Djibouti as part of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. During an exercise in 2003, a Marine from the squadron was killed. Miccolis said, fortunately, the sergeant major anticipated what kind of effect this would have on the squadron and ultimately helped them mourn the loss of their brother, in turn strengthening the squadron, which later aided them in successfully accomplishing

the mission.

"It has been an absolute pleasure working with you," added Miccolis. "I appreciate all that you've done for the squadron and myself."

Gant came to HMH-461 in April 2002. The "Ironhorses" was the first helicopter squadron he had ever been assigned to, and before he arrived there, he said he didn't quite understand the challenge of a helicopter squadron, but since has learned the intricate details of effectively aiding the commanding officer in running a rotary squadron.

"I'm very confident in Sergeant Major Jones' ability to take charge as the squadron's sergeant major," said Gant, who comes from an administrative background. "While I hate to leave, it's time for me to go, so I'll turn it over to someone who is qualified."

Jones plans to continue the squadron's already high-paced training schedule, but intends to step it up a little more: getting involved and taking care of Marines.

This is my first time working with [CH-53E] helicopters, but I look forward to it," said Jones, who spent his early Marine Corps career with 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. "It feels good to be back in the Fleet Marine Force again."

According to Miccolis, whether it's working with Super Stallions or Sea Knights, a sergeant major's duties never change.

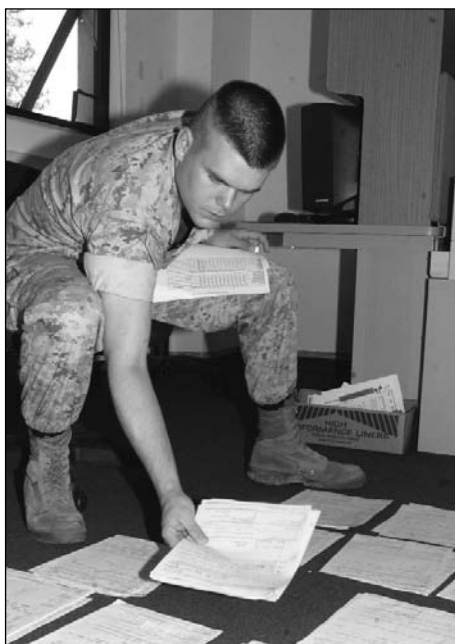
"The 'Ironhorse' family will miss you [Gant]. Godspeed and good luck," concluded Miccolis.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Miccolis, HMH-461 commanding officer, passes the noncommissioned officer's sword from Sgt. Maj. George H. Gant to Sgt. Maj. Larry C. Jones in a post and relief ceremony held outside the squadron's hangar March 30.

IPAC pumps out even more paperwork



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt

Pfc. George S. Johnson, native of Medera, Calif. matches up paperwork to ensure everyone's legal matters are in order.

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt
correspondent

The Marine Corps Administrative Analysis Team visited the New River Installation Personnel Administration Center on March 1 - 5, as part of their inspections of all East Coast administrative shops.

The MCAAT consists of two teams of Marine Corps inspectors whose only mission is to ensure that all administrative shops are adherent to Department of Defense and Marine Corps regulations.

Several sections within IPAC were inspected. One of the sections was "pay," which deals with leave and diary feedback reports. They also examined different rosters including family separation allowances, basic allowance for housing and service spouse.

In addition, they make certain all Marines receive proper entitlements.

"We do all these things and more," said Cpl. Mario Coiradas, pay clerk and

native of Hollywood, Fla. "We're kind of like the second line of defense; we double check all the other sections to be sure everyone is keeping up with the MCAAT standards."

Cpl. Anthonese E. Barlow, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of promotions and training added, the "promotions" section went through all training files for the past two years to ensure that all the Marines were promoted in a timely manner and verified that the information matches the MCAAT check list. Training scores are also confirmed as entered into the system, and files are organized in chronological order.

This Minneapolis, Minn., native concluded, "Once we receive any information, it is put in the system by the next day."

Another section inspected was "deployment." According to Lance Cpl. Brian W. Arnold, a deployment clerk from Chico, Calif., this section confirms that Marines, who are deployed or go temporary additional

duty, receive the correct pay and are taken care of.

When dealing with courts-martial, unit punishment books and forfeitures of pay, Marines should go to the legal section to check if their information is up-to-date and correct, explained Pfc. George S. Johnson, legal clerk from Medera, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Sondrae J. Jellema, a Sioux Falls, S.D., native and separations clerk added, the MCAAT's main focus for the "separations" section is the residual files, which are files of Marines who are already separated from the Marine Corps, and the inspectors also check all the pending files to see if they are up-to-date.

One of the last sections inspected was "new joins." They deal with various audit processes, travel claims and entitlements.

Master Sgt. James W. Gray, IPAC SNCOIC from Annapolis, Md., said this is one of the only IPAC's on the East Coast and is still in its infancy.

Wheat gets seperated from chaff

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

A civilian worker aboard New River was awarded the Department of the Navy's Individual Environmental Quality award March 4.

Mary Wheat, Safety and Environmental Affairs director from Kansas City, Mo., received the award for her efforts in planning, implementation and evaluation of all environmental programs for the Station, according to the award nomination.

Winning this award qualifies her for the Department of Defense award, which will be announced later in the year, according to Kirk Kropinack, deputy director for the Station Safety and Environmental Affairs Office and

Swansboro, N.C., native.

"She makes a great effort to support the troops with funding," said Kropinack. "She comes up with innovative ways to ease the burden on the troops and the squadrons."

According to the nomination package, Wheat accomplished major tasks that will help the Station protect the environment and help optimize Marine Corps personnel.

One of these tasks is the hazardous material consolidation program. This program will reduce personnel requirements and allow 17 Marines to be returned to their primary military occupational specialties.

"I was able to get environmental funding to purchase a \$20,000 centrifuge for the HAZMAT centers,

which will ease the burden of having to manually ring out the chemicals out of the rags that the mechanics use," said Wheat.

Another task that Wheat has accomplished is storm water management. In recent years, the Station had some serious storm water management issues from poor pipes and ditches to collection of storm water into sanitary sewer systems.

To correct this problem, Wheat created a three-phase plan, costing approximately \$2 million for repairs and maintenance of the facilities.

The Station Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit is required to test their nozzles daily by spraying aqueous film forming foam from the vehicles. The foam is sprayed onto open

terrain, which can run off into the storm water system. When the foam drains into the system, it has a negative impact on the wastewater treatment operations.

"To help reduce this risk, we purchased NoFoam, which allows ARFF to test their nozzles using dyed water," said Wheat. "This saves ARFF approximately \$46,000 annually."

According to Kropinack, he did not realize how much Wheat did for the Station and the troops until he noticed it took two weeks to write up her nomination package.

"She is the best boss I have ever had," said Kropinack. "She is a 'tough nut' when she has to be and stands up for her people. She is very professional, and she deserves this award."

Awards and Promotions

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204

Promotions

Sgt. T. C. Gibbs

Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron-22

Promotions

Cpl. J. M. Tuttle
Lance Cpl. L. L. Hawes
Lance Cpl. J. T. Tyree
Pfc. C. D. Orr

Good Conduct Award

Staff Sgt. K. A. Bucklew
Staff Sgt. D. K. Lally
Sgt. J. A. Davis
Cpl. R. A. McClain
Cpl. T. M. Piercy

Navy Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. B. Kobialka

Marine Wing Support Squadron-272

Promotions

Staff Sgt. D. A. McCabe
(Meritorious)

Cpl. L. D. Milstead
Lance Cpl. J. N. Daum
Lance Cpl. J. C. Floeck IV
Lance Cpl. J. A. Gonzalez
Lance Cpl. M. Sandoval Jr.
Lance Cpl. J. D. Snoddy

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. T. M. McNeal

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Gunnery Sgt. C. B. Laarman
Staff Sgt. F. J. Camilo
Sgt. L. R. Green

Certificate of Commendation

Cpl. L. D. Milstead
Lance Cpl. D. C. Carattini
Lance Cpl. M. A. Dymont
Lance Cpl. J. D. Nunez

Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit

Promotions

Lance Cpl. M. A. Corl
Lance Cpl. G. Diaz
Lance Cpl. S. D. Edgar

Lance Cpl. M. C. Haubert
Lance Cpl. T. J. Humm
Lance Cpl. P. H. Lenox
Lance Cpl. R. B. Manning III
Lance Cpl. T. L. Mitchell
Lance Cpl. D. C. Rebenstorff
Lance Cpl. W. L. Sellers
Lance Cpl. S. R. Sells
Lance Cpl. D. F. Sieger
Lance Cpl. J. C. Spraggins
Lance Cpl. T. D. Thomas
Pfc. R. B. Basi
Pfc. D. J. Bower
Pfc. P. J. Cantu
Pfc. F. V. Fasano
Pfc. J. C. Freel
Pfc. D. S. Leach
Pfc. D. B. Parodi

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Promotions

Sgt. P. J. Doran
Sgt. A. B. Johnston
Cpl. M. Coiradas
Cpl. D. H. Forshey
Cpl. G. B. Hunt II
Lance Cpl. A. L. Grabow
Lance Cpl. J. D. Hart
Lance Cpl. K. T. Hartwell
Lance Cpl. M. S. Hunbman

Lance Cpl. G. S. Johnson
Lance Cpl. M. A. Larose
Lance Cpl. F. G. Rivas
Lance Cpl. D. J. Roe
Lance Cpl. A. C. Sernholt
Lance Cpl. Q. M. Smith
Lance Cpl. J. D. Spain
Lance Cpl. A. G. Turner
Lance Cpl. C. W. Ziegler III

Good Conduct Medal

Staff Sgt. E. G. Stump
Cpl. K. S. Brennenman
Cpl. S. A. Colon
Cpl. S. T. Crosby
Cpl. A. Galvan
Cpl. D. D. George
Lance Cpl. S. H. Dematteo

Certificate of Commendation

Cpl. J. J. Jellison

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26

Promotions

Sgt. J. C. Bribiesca
Sgt. N. Edinborough
Sgt. M. W. Sandel
Cpl. P. A. Elsey
Cpl. R. P. Flueck Jr.

Cpl. J. F. Little
Cpl. M. L. White
Cpl. J. R. Moates
Cpl. M. S. Moran
Cpl. T. M. Pontius
Lance Cpl. J. J. Bretely
Lance Cpl. D. D. Chiquet
Lance Cpl. A. Cuevas
Lance Cpl. F. Delatorre
Lance Cpl. B. T. Gibbs
Lance Cpl. N. G. Haney
Lance Cpl. J. M. Kromminga
Lance Cpl. E. R. Matthew
Lance Cpl. B. W. Schott

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29

Promotions

Sgt. S. G. Gribbon
Sgt. K. A. Murzyn
Cpl. A. I. Mastre
Cpl. R. J. Rodriguez
Cpl. S. W. Villanova
Lance Cpl. A. J. Feuerstahler
Lance Cpl. M. R. Holcomb Jr.
Lance Cpl. M. P. Mattiace
Lance Cpl. D. Narea
Lance Cpl. R. C. Pichardo
Lance Cpl. M. I. Robbins

Easter comes early at New River



Pfc. Michael Angelo

William A. Paynter, 14 months and son of Capt. Andy T. Paynter, native of Columbus, Ohio, hunts for Easter eggs at the Youth Center on Saturday.



Pfc. Michael Angelo

Pfc. Alan M. Black, a Seed Rapid, Iowa native and crew chief with Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit, New River, poses as the Easter bunny and hands out candy to children at the Station's youth "Eggstravaganza" on Saturday. Some of the attractions at the event included an Easter egg hunt, moonwalk, clowns, snow cone machines and concessions stands.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Cpl. Kristopher R. Poole (left) of Midland, Texas, a maintenance technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, grapples with Sgt. Adam W. Bunker (right) of Saginaw, Mich., as part of their gray belt training for the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Learn, practice, pass on to others

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program is designed to teach Marines discipline, self-protection in hand-to-hand combat situations and non-compliance techniques, but to be proficient, one must practice.

However, according to some instructors, this is not necessarily what they are observing.

Some instructors, such as Sergeant Adam W. Bunker, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 training clerk and native of Saginaw, Mich., might even say Marines were being sent to the martial arts classes simply to reach the first level; tan belt, so they can beat the so-called "deadline."

According to Bunker what is not happening enough is Marines continuing to go to the classes in an effort to advance and bring back their newfound knowledge to their shops and help train others.

"Some of the reasons the program was implemented were to teach Marines how to react in hand-to-hand combat situations, teach non-compliance techniques and instill even more discipline, but it defeats the purpose if they never practice it again," he said.

According to Marine Corps Order 1500.54A, commands are encouraged to incorporate MCMAP training into regular unit physical fitness programs. One hour per week is recommended. It goes on to say that, MCMAP training is not especially suited to a block training format [compressed time frame]. However, it is designed to be taught over an extended period and a weekly physical fitness program is ideal.

Bunker explained that there are a great deal of ways to implement martial arts into physical training. "There are lots of exercises during the grass drills including squad lunges, squad push-ups, the camou-

flage flower and buddy squats that take the whole squad to accomplish as a team," said Bunker, who is also a MCMAP brown belt instructor. "It's a totally different kind of training from the same old morning physical training routine and will really help elevate the motivation."

As with any other type of training, safety is always paramount, and although the techniques have been safety-checked by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, Marines must strictly adhere to the safety

procedures.

Training regularly can also help personnel remember the safety regulations. Keep in mind that units are required to have a corpsman present for the more complex and advanced moves.

According to Bunker, the training and upkeep of martial arts rests on the shoulders of either the staff non-commissioned officers or the highest-ranking belt holder in the various sections.

"For example: If a gunnery sergeant has a gray belt, and gray is the highest in that particular shop, then it is his or her job to go over the criteria for the previous belt with their subordinates to keep fresh, maybe even some of the most basic gray belt moves," Bunker said. "It would also be that same gunny's job to keep in touch with the local instructors to make sure of any changes that take place with how various moves are to be performed."

According to the order, there are more ways to keep on the cutting edge of this training.

"Skill level progression in MCMAP, beyond what the individual Marine's unit is capable of providing, is offered at Semper Fit facilities and taught by certified Martial Arts Instructors (MAIs) and Martial Arts Instructor Trainers (MAITs) during off-duty hours," as stated in the order. "This supplements, not replaces, MCMAP unit training."

Marines are supposed to be able to engage an enemy anywhere from 500 meters to 500 millimeters. This includes both self-defense and non-compliance techniques. Marines never know which one of the two situations they might be faced with in the future.

"Take a look at what is happening in Haiti right now," said Bunker. "Those Marines were given extremely short notice and are all of the sudden standing post in hostile territory. That could be anybody in that situation, and it is important to be fresh on the martial arts skills and how to use them."



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Sgt. Joe P. Altman of Roselle, Ill. drives his palm into the jaw of Lance Cpl. James M. Blask, native of Cleveland, both of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, while grappling.

Marine Corps reading list book review: The Art of War

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt
correspondent

Strategy is the key to keeping men alive in wars and battles. Many people believe they know what strategy is, but Sun Tzu, the original author of The Art of War, put a completely different spin on warfighting.

What initially caught my eye about this book was the phrase written by Master Sun on the back cover: ultimate excellence lies not in winning every battle, but in defeating the enemy without ever fighting.

Master Sun takes warfighting and breaks it down into its simplest terms. He divides the heart of warfighting into thirteen different, but equally important, sections and explains in detail each section using

a poetic style of writing. This book is filled with excellent quotes, which can be used in almost any situation when analyzed in the right context. Editor and translator of the book, John Minford wrote in the introduction, the strategic advice it offers concerns much more than the conduct of war. It is an ancient book of proverbial wisdom, a book of life.

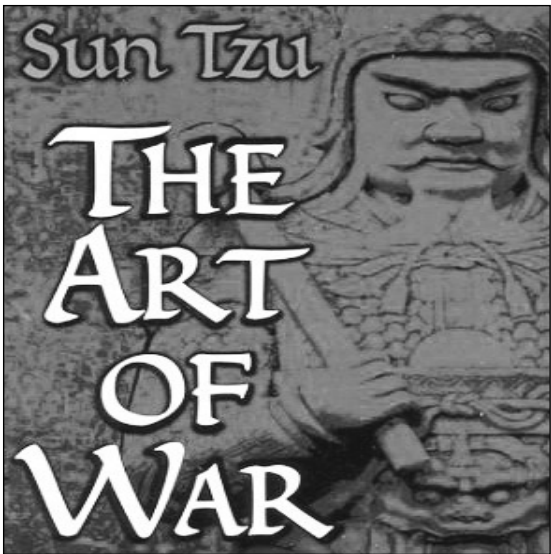
In my opinion, the commentary was the best part of the book. Minford takes excerpts and teachings from other books to help the reader better understand some of the knowledge Sun Tzu has to offer.

I especially enjoyed the way Minford dedicated the first portion of the book to its original translated text, and then combined a second

part, which consisted of commentaries and side notes. This portion better assisted me to understand the manuscript.

Overall, the book had very good information about strategies in warfighting that is used by the military still today, but without the commentary, I would not have totally understood what in the world Sun Tzu wrote about.

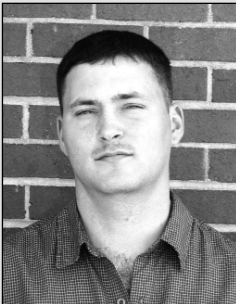
I would only recommend this book to individuals who are avid history readers, and who enjoy books which are a little on the bland side. However, those who would like a more thorough insight into warfighting should definitely put it on their reading list. The Art of War is not just war strategies, but a philosophy on life.



The original book was written by Sun Tzu, but was edited and translated by John Minford.

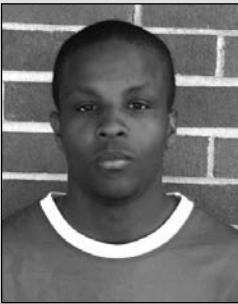
Roto View

What are your plans for the Easter holiday?



"My plans include me going to church and hanging out with friends."

Cpl. Michael J. Williams,
Aviation mechanic,
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29
Tacoma, Wash.



"After being deployed in Iraq for a whole year, all I want to do is spend time with my wife and kids, especially my newborn son."

Lance Cpl. Vern Weaver,
Motor Transport mechanic,
Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group-26
Richmond, Va.

"Going home to see my family and friends."



Staff Sgt. Ernie J. Fears,
Staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of engineers,
II Marine Expeditionary Force training group
Blue Ridge, Ga.

"I have to move that weekend, but otherwise, I'll be spending my Easter at my kids' Easter party."



Staff Sgt. Jason J. Parrish,
Engineer,
Marine Wing Support Squadron-272
Indianapolis, Ind.



"My family and I spend Easter reflecting on the true meaning of the holiday by attending church service together."

Lance Cpl. Aaron J. Gay,
Intelligence analyst,
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461
Richmond, Va.



"I'm going to Atlantic City, where we are going to have our family reunion."

Pfc. Alexandra M. Hernandez,
Supply clerk,
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26
Carneys Point, N.J.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

The 1972 Buick Skylark that Master Sgt. John J. Thorn races at Coastal Plains Raceway Park, is powered by a Chevrolet 350 V-8 motor with a turbo 350 automatic transmission. In an effort to encourage other young Marines to get involved, Thorn works on his car at the Station Auto Hobby Shop.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Master Sgt. John J. Thorn, Station Criminal Investigation Department chief and native of Cromwell, Ind., shows off his number 48 car prior to the race April 3 at Coastal Plains Raceway Park. Thorn takes his car to local events to give children new ideas for fun activities.

Marine lives life in fast lane, makes childhood dreams reality

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

The smell of burning rubber and exhaust fills the air as cars race to be the first to cross the track's finish line.

Master Sgt. John J. Thorn, Station Criminal Investigation Department chief, remembers going to the local racetrack with his father when he was a child.

"We would drive up to the fence of the track and sit on top of the roof of the van to watch the race," said Thorn, who is originally from Cromwell, Ind. "I guess that's where my love of racing began."

Thorn began his racing career on a dirt track in Hawaii in 1989 and has raced on and off throughout the years.

"When I got stationed here, I went to the Coastal Plains Raceway and got the bug to race again," said Thorn. "The track gives Marines some-

thing else to do on a Saturday night besides going to the bars. It also supports the military with a Military Appreciation Day every year and give out about 250 tickets to each command."

In 2002, Thorn went to New River Marine Corps Community Services and asked for sponsorship to build a street stock 1972 Buick Skylark.

"We decided to help him to get the MCCS logo out into the community," said Jeanie Klezaras, Station MCCS marketing director. "He shows his car off in the races, and events out in town with our logo on it, and it lets the community know what we do to support our Marines."

The car was given to Thorn by B & S Body Shop, and they also helped with the bodywork, added Thorn.

"It was in cherry condition when they had impounded it years ago," said Thorn. "It even had the original factory 8-track player in it."

According to Thorn, the car took approximately

one year to build, and the work was completed at the Station Auto Hobby Shop.

"I wanted to show the Marines how useful the Hobby Shop was," said Thorn. "You can do almost anything there."

Thorn joined a team called Enforcer Racing, which is made up of law enforcement officers in the local area.

"We are community oriented," said Thorn. "We go to local events to help give kids something else to do instead of getting in trouble. My goal is to get at-risk children, who don't want to play sports, involved in something like helping work on the car."

Thorn takes his car to various events in the local area to help get kids excited and interested in the activities.

"He has done a lot for MCCS," said Klezaras. "Anytime we need him to bring his car out to support one of our events, he is always out there getting involved."



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt

Thorn (left), and his crew chief, Marc Holden, an Onslow County sheriff from Galeta, Calif., put the final touches on his car prior to the race.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Race cars fly past the official during a race at Coastal Plains Raceway Park. According to Thorn, the races give Marines something else to do besides go to bars.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Knights of Columbus add counsel

The Knights of Columbus established a new counsel aboard the Station on March 23. Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer, stands center as the newly appointed treasurer of the Station counsel. The Knights of Columbus is a non-profit organization that has recently added this counsel as the first ever established here.



MCAS New River Sounds of Freedom Air Show
Celebrating the Heritage of Aviation



- The 100th Year of Powered Flight ...
- The 60th Anniversary of MCAS New River ...
- The 40th Year of Service to the Fleet by the CH-46 ...

Join us as we celebrate these milestones and the rich Heritage of Aviation at the 2004 New River Sounds of Freedom Airshow, Sept. 18 - 19.

Aerobatics, jet cars, special operations demonstrations, historic war-birds, flight simulators ... and more. Don't miss it.

Those interested in opportunities for corporate sponsorship should contact Jeanie Klezaras at

Lifeguards Needed!

MCAS New River
Station & Family Pool



Details call 449-6410 or 376-0942.

Join us for brunch
Easter Sunday



April 11
MCAS Officer's Club
0900 - 1330

RSVP by: April 9

Enjoy a full breakfast bar to include: omelet & waffle bar, brunch items, pork tenderloins, medallions, champagne chicken, steamship round, full salad & fruit bar, and juice & dessert bar.



Members	\$11.95	Non-Members	\$13.95		
Child (4 - 12)	\$ 5.98	Child (4 - 12)	\$ 6.98	3 & under	Free

All authorized patrons & their guests are welcome to join us! For details, call 449-6409.

John Gunn's sports highlights

Rick Lantz's Berlin Thunder opens 2004 season Sunday

For the NFL Europe League and Berlin Thunder coach Rick Lantz, a Marine veteran, the 2004 season opens this weekend.

Saturday, Amsterdam plays at Frankfurt and Sunday, it's the Scottish Claymores at Berlin and Cologne at Rhein.

Berlin finished 2 - 7. In 2003, Frankfurt beat Rhein, 35 - 14, in World Bowl XI.

Lantz takes 40 years of coaching experience to Germany's capital city, including some of the bigger schools in college football and a stint in the NFL. He succeeds Peter Vaas, who was appointed coach of the league's new team in Cologne.

"I am very excited about joining the Berlin Thunder," said Lantz, who spent the 2003 NFLEL season as a defensive assistant with the Barcelona Dragons (5 - 4 in 2003). "I know what a great organization this (Berlin) is, and I am looking forward to helping to build on the winning tradition that has been established at the franchise.

"It will be great to lead out the team in the magnificent Olympic Stadium, and I intend to give the Thunder fans a team of which they can be proud. There is a lot of hard work ahead, and I can't wait to get started."

Lantz joined the Dragons last season after serving as interim head coach at the Naval Academy in 2001. He had returned to the school as defensive coordinator after 10 seasons as defensive coordinator at the University of Virginia.

Lantz, who was a sergeant in the Marine Corps, began his coaching career in the high school ranks in 1963. He served at Boston University (twice), Bridgton Academy (head coach), Rhode Island and the State University of New York at Buffalo before a seven-season term as defensive coordinator at the Naval Academy from 1970 - 76.

From 1977 - 80, he was defensive coordinator at the University of Miami and then spent two years as linebackers coach for the New England Patriots and two as defensive coordinator at Georgia Tech.

From 1984 - 86, Lantz was defensive line coach at Notre Dame and spent five seasons as defensive

coordinator at the University of Louisville before moving on to Virginia.

Lantz becomes the third coach in Thunder history, following Wes Chandler (1999) and Peter Vaas (2000-2003), who led Berlin to back-to-back World Bowl victories in 2001 and 2002. Rick Lantz's Berlin Thunder opens the 2004 season Sunday.

Gunn is a member of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Assn., 2nd Marine Division Assn., Marine Corps Intelligence Assn., Marine Corps Aviation Assn., Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.

New River basketball standings

<u>Division A</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
MALS-26 Sup	10	1
MAG-26 HQ	7	2
HMM-365	6	3
H&HS	5	4
MALS-29	4	6
VMX-22	2	7
HMH-461	0	10

<u>Division B</u>		
MWSS-272	9	0
MALS-29 Avi	7	2
MALS-26 HQ	6	3
NAMTRA	3	5
VMT-302	1	8
HMM-264	0	8



*These were the standings April 5.

New River Intramural basketball intensifies



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt

New River's Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron-22 squares off with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29's basketball team in a game at the New River Fitness Center on Monday. The Osprey squadron team was the victor.

22d MEU (SOC) Marines, Sailors aid in Tanker Crew's rescue at sea

22d MEU Public Affairs
contribution

Although the 22d MEU is now in the Persian Gulf to help fight al Queda and other anti-coalition forces, according to military officials, they assisted in a rescue at sea before arriving there.

ABOARD THE USS WASP- Members of the Camp Lejeune-based 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) assisted in the rescue of 24 mariners March 22, after their tanker collided with a fishing vessel and caught fire off the coast of Oman.

The Greek-flagged oil tanker, motor vessel Everton, made a distress call at approximately 7:30 a.m. local time, indicating that the 567-foot ship had collided with a fishing vessel and was on fire.

Nearly 80 nautical miles away, the USS Yorktown (CG 48) proceeded to respond to the emergency signal along with several other commercial ships in the vicinity.

Several members of the 22d MEU's Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) were aboard the Yorktown and began to mentally prepare, knowing they might be needed.

Petty Officer First Class John Tague, originally from Peabody, Mass., was one of those MEU Sailors.

As the Force Reconnaissance Detachment corpsmen, Tague and fellow corpsman, HM1 Rick Vollbrecht, of Erie, Pa., quickly realized their medical trauma skills might be of service to the injured victims.

"When we arrived, we had reports of a crew of 32, three of whom were believed to be in the water," said Tague.

Both Tague and Vollbrecht along with several other sailors quickly manned two seven-meter rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIBs) and began searching for the lost crewmen.

Vollbrecht's RHIB went to a nearby civilian vessel, picked up members of the crew previously plucked from the water and took them to the Yorktown to better assess the situation and to coordinate a plan to combat the fire.

The MSPF air officer, Capt. James Gibson, was also aboard the Yorktown, and he coordinated to have Marine snipers find vantage points aboard the cruiser and use their optical systems to search for crew members in the water and for reported sharks in the area.

"The Yorktown has a great crew. All of its Sailors and the MEU Marines, who were aboard, were volunteering to help in any capacity," said Gibson, a Longbranch, N.J., native.

Sailors from the Yorktown and some members of the Everton's crew went alongside the burning tanker

in a RHIB and used a high-power pump to spray aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) to smother the flames.

Both Tague and Vollbrecht described the burning vessel as having a huge 20-30 foot gash down its side apparently from the collision.

"As we got closer to the tanker, you could feel the heat from 100 meters away. The water next to the ship was sizzling," said Vollbrecht, who is qualified as a search and rescue corpsman and is part of the 22d MEU command element.

Although 24 of the 25 crewmen were recovered, their remaining crew member has not been found.

The fire aboard Everton was last reported under control and damage estimates were ongoing.

There was no information available on whether any oil had escaped from the tanker, which was still afloat and appeared to have significant superficial damage.

The Yorktown is an Aegis guided missile cruiser that is one of six ships, which comprise the Wasp Strike Group.

The 22nd MEU elements include the Command Element, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron -266 (Reinforced) and the MEU Service Support Group-22.

MK19 40mm machine gun

The MK19 40 mm machine gun, MOD 3, is an air-cooled, disintegrating metallic link-belt fed, blowback operated, fully automatic weapon and is crew transportable over short distances with limited amounts of ammunition.

It can fire a variety of 40 mm grenades. The M430 HEDP 40 mm grenade will pierce armor up to two inches thick and will produce fragments to kill personnel within five meters and wound personnel within 15 meters of the point of impact.

Associated components are: MK64 Cradle Mount, MOD 5; M3 Tripod Mount; and the AN/TVS-5 Night Vision Sight. The MK19 also mounts in the up-gunned weapons station of the LVTP7A1 model of the AAV and vehicle ring mounts.

General Characteristics

Builder: Saco Defense

Length: 43.1 inches

Weight:

Gun: 72.5 pounds

Tripod: 44.0 pounds

Bore diameter: 40 mm

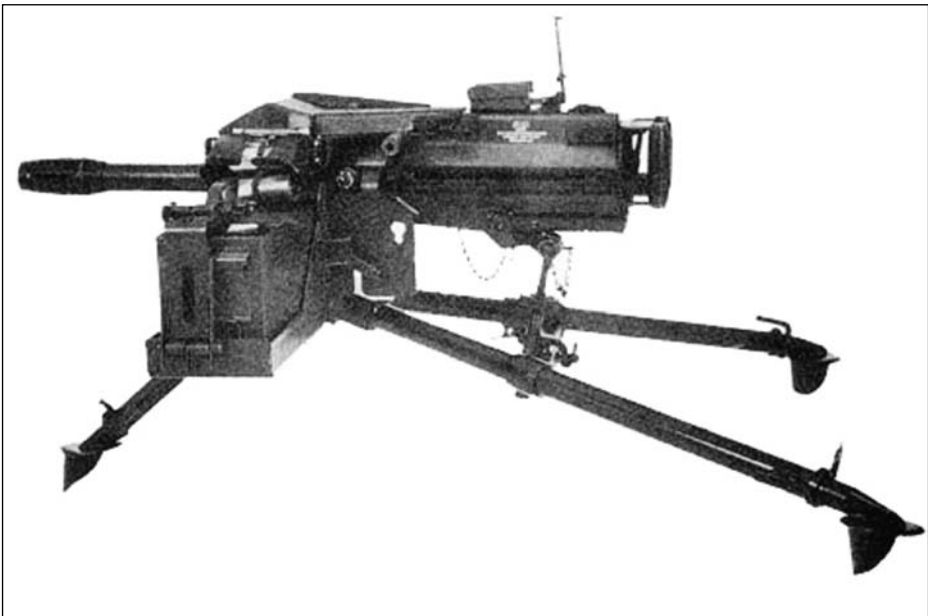
Maximum effective range: 1600 meters

Maximum range: 2200 meters

Cyclic rate of fire: 325-375 rounds per minute

Unit replacement cost: \$13,758

Editor's note: Information for this section was taken from the Marine Corps Fact File.



Soldiers: Unbaptized Arms

Cmdr. Henry Hensley
Station chaplain

Ivan the Great, sometimes called Ivan the Terrible, was the Czar of Russia in the 15th century. He was a great general and is known as the father of modern Russia. He was called this because he led the Russian armies in driving out the Tartars and consolidating the tribal territories of Russia. It was under his reign that the Russians acquired more land than at any other time in the whole history of Russia. Unfortunately, he had a problem. He was so busy being a general, that he never found time to marry. His advisors became very concerned and were continually nagging him and reminding him that there was no heir to his throne. Finally, he could stand their nagging no longer, and he instructed them to find him a bride.

They began traveling the capitals of Europe looking for just the right lady for their Czar. They searched and searched, and they finally found just the right lady. She was beautiful! Her name was Sophia, and she was the daughter of the King of Greece. So it happened

that a contract was drawn up, but when it seemed that everything was set, a problem arose.

She refused to marry Ivan unless he did one thing. That one thing was for him to join her church: the Greek Orthodox Church. Well, even though Ivan has come to be known as "The Terrible," he knew a good thing when he saw it and wasn't always hard to get along with. He readily agreed to her condition.

The date of the wedding was set and when the time came, he went to Greece with 500 of his most skilled warriors, the Palace Guard.

When they arrived and Ivan's baptism was set, the troops decided they wanted to follow their Czar and be baptized also. So a priest was assigned to each of the 500 soldiers. Each priest began to lead his charge through the classes necessary for church membership. However, soon another problem arose. The teaching of the church said that no one could be a member of the church and at the same time be a professional soldier. This seemed to eliminate all of them. However, they devised a plan to go ahead with the baptisms.

The day came for the baptisms. It was to be a

mass baptism. They went to a local river, and the 500 priests led their 500 candidates into the water. Each of the 500 soldiers was dressed in his full dress uniform with all their sidearms and sabers in their scabbards. As a priest on shore recited the scriptures, each priest started to immerse his candidate. Together, the soldiers reached to their scabbards, pulled out their sabers and held them out of the water. So that as they were baptized, except for their arms and sabers, their whole bodies were immersed.

By doing this, they felt they could say, "Our bodies and soul belong to the Church, but our arms and sabers do not."

Now this is an actual incident. It is something that we can put our finger on; it really happened, but is there a parallel in any of our lives? Have any of us in our lives dedicated ourselves to our faith, and at the same time, tried to hold a part of ourselves back? No matter what our faith is, we are not being honest and truthful unless we give ourselves totally to that faith. My challenge to each of you is to give yourself totally to your Creator, the Source of your strength.

April: month of the military child

Leslie Slosky
contributor

April, with all its promise of growth, is a wonderful time to think about children. It is also child abuse prevention month and the month of the military child.

The first time one hears this phrase, it sounds odd. How can children be military?

The fact is children become military when their parent, or increasingly, both parents are in a branch of the military.

Over 800,000 American children have at least one military parent.

For these children, having a military parent means they are different in a number of important ways from children whose parents are not a part of America's defense force.

Some of these differences are positive.

Military children get to see both foreign lands and more of their own country than the average child of civilian parents. They learn early to understand and accept people from other cultures. They get a variety of educational experiences far beyond the ordinary.

However, being a military child

also has its negative aspects, and long separations from a parent are at the top of the list.

The military child learns early that parents may not always make it to the baseball game or dance recital. They learn that there are important reasons for the parent's absence, but that does not lessen the feelings of sadness.

Military children too are subject to frequent moves, which means leaving old friends behind and having to make new ones. The average military child goes through six to nine school changes in grades K through 12. The average military family moves approximately every three years.

What this means for the military child is changes that affect their education. Changes from one school system to another often involve differences in required credit hours and testing requirements.

In addition, midyear moves may involve difficulties in getting records and course grades transmitted from one school to another.

Finally, for military children in

secondary schools, who may attend three or four different high schools, there are often problems with fitting in with a new crowd in a new school as well as the loss of place in sports and other activities.

Acknowledging these difficulties, the Military Child Education Coalition was established in 1998.

Chartered to represent the interests of the military child and to help develop memorandums of agreement between schools, the aim of the MCEC is to minimize the adjustment necessary by military children.

The organization has grown dramatically in the five years since it began. The MCEC now has its own website located at www.militarychild.org. It now publishes a quarterly magazine with a subscription of 4,000 and operates an interactive virtual counseling center.

The MCEC provides workshops for both parents and counselors.

Other services include a guidebook for parents of secondary students and a chart with an accompanying passport or pocket-sized guide to

help parents and students plan for college.

Although the MCEC focuses on all areas of interest to military children and their families, special attention is paid to the needs of secondary students, who are facing college applications, admission standards and testing.

For example, MCEC provides links to sites where students can download sample copies of exams, test dates and scholarship information.

Additionally, links provide alternatives to conventional education solutions such as distance learning, virtual schools and home schooling.

The intent is to make military children competitive with students whose parents' occupations allow them a less interrupted school history.

The MCEC is growing by leaps and bounds, but it needs your help to spread the word and help military children everywhere.

Join the ranks of those who care about the educational needs of military children.

For more information about the MCEC or to join, follow the links at www.MilitaryChild.org or call (254) 953-1923.



Get on schedule with the Station Theater

Get in free with military identification.

The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins.



Movie times are subject to change.
For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.

Wed. April 7	9 a.m. 7 p.m.	50 First Dates 50 First Dates	PG-13 PG-13	96 min. 96 min.
Fri. April 9	6:30 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	Miracle Barber Shop 2	PG-13 PG-13	135 min. 116 min.
Sat. April 10	6:30 p.m. 9:30 p.m.	Miracle Barber Shop 2	PG-13 PG-13	135 min. 116 min.
Sun. April 11	3 p.m. 6 p.m.	Miracle 50 First Dates	PG-13 PG-13	135 min. 96 min.

ATTENTION

The Station Movie Theater will be closed beginning April 12 until further notice. During this time the theater will be undergoing extensive renovations. Call 449-6292 for more information.

LCTV-10 Schedule

April 9-15

Show Title	Show Time	Show Title	Show Time
Tapping Our Roots: Water & Forest	7:30 a.m.	Destination Chicago	7 p.m.
The Morning Report	8 a.m.	The Morning Report	7:30 p.m.
Destination Chicago	8:30 a.m.	Air Force News	8 p.m.
Your Corps	9 a.m.	Operation Winter Front II	9 p.m.
Submarine Warfare	9:30 a.m.	Ecstasy Exposed	9:30 p.m.
Air Force News	11 a.m.	Submarine Warfare	10 p.m.
The Morning Report	12 p.m.	Navy/Marine Corps News	11 p.m.
Tapping Our Roots: Water & Forest	12:30 p.m.	The Morning Report	11:30 p.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	1 p.m.	Army News	12 a.m.
Destination Chicago	1:30 p.m.	Air Force News	12:30 a.m.
Operation Winter Front II	2 p.m.	Tapping Our Roots: Water & Forest	2:30 a.m.
Ecstasy Exposed	2:30 p.m.	Destination Chicago	3 a.m.
Your Corps	3 p.m.	Navy/Marine Corps News	3:30 a.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	3:30 p.m.	Operation Winter Front II	4 a.m.
The Morning Report	4 p.m.	The Morning Report	5 a.m.
Vanderbilt University	4:30 p.m.	Ecstasy Exposed	5:30 a.m.
North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast	5:10 p.m.	Vanderbilt University	6 a.m.
Army News	5:30 p.m.		
Submarine Warfare	6 p.m.		



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron study a large scale model of Fort Fisher and the battle that helped end the Civil War. The Marines visited the fort during professional military education training about amphibious assault operations March 30.

Marines visit Fort Fisher; Get taste of amphibious past

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aboard New River received a unique historical training experience while participating in professional military education (PME) about amphibious assaults March 30.

Approximately 124 Marines traveled to Fort Fisher in Wilmington, N.C., to visit the site of one of the most ambitious land and sea battles of the Civil War.

During this battle there were 70 Medal of Honor recipients and more than 4,000 casualties.

Upon arriving, the Marines were given a tour of the fort along with a static model display of the grounds and battle and were shown a short video of the fort's history.

Briefly following these events, a PME on amphibious assaults was held by the commanding

officer, Lt. Col. Timothy W. Fitzgerald; training chief, Master Sgt. Donald L. Funkhouser; and administration chief, Staff Sgt. Darian E. Hines.

"With the events that are taking place in the world today, we all need to know this information," said Funkhouser, native of Omaha, Neb. "Just because our military occupational specialty [MOS] isn't infantry doesn't mean it takes away from the fact that we are all basic riflemen first and foremost."

According to internet sources, Fort Fisher has become the most important earthwork fortification in the South. The supply line through Wilmington was the last remaining supply route to Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The fort made up one mile of sea defense and one-third of a mile was land defense.

The land portion consisted of large mounds of earth and sand, ideal for absorbing the shock of explosives.

Massive and powerful, Fort Fisher kept federal blockading ships at a distance from the Cape Fear River, protecting Wilmington from attack, and ensuring relatively safe passage for Confederate naval travel, the source stated.

After several failed attempts, Fort Fisher fell Jan. 15, 1865 during a massive federal amphibious assault. Within weeks, Union forces overran Wilmington, and the Civil War ended soon thereafter.

Today, a few mounds still remain, and the fort is open to the public as a national historic site.

According to Funkhouser, as Marines, we learn from Marine Corps history that we should study the past successes and failures in battle to be better prepared for future encounters.

"We must be versatile and able to adapt to anything," said Funkhouser. "Anyone of us could be appointed 0311 Infantry and find ourselves on patrols, so we must be prepared."